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IV. *A description of a new kind of Walnut tree, discovered by Monsieur Reneaume, of the Royal Academy of Sciences.*

THe Walnut-tree, which the Greeks called sometimes *Χάσκη Βασιλική*, and sometimes *Περσική*, in *Latin* *Nux Juglans sive Regia*, is a Tree known to every Body. 'Tis described by very many Authors, who (nevertheless) seem to have known but six *Species* of it, tho I can reckon nine. They confounded (unless I'm deceiv'd) with the *common sort*, that which the Country people call *Noix Angleuses*, which one may call *Nux Juglans putamine durissimo*, which appears to me to be that which in *Hermolaus*, and in the *Historia Lugdunensis* is called *Moratia moracilla*, and which *Cæsalpin* calls *Surdæ*.

I don't see that the same Authors have distinguished another *Species*, which might be called *Nux Juglans fructu præcoci*, because they are sooner ripe than the others, and eaten about the Feast of St John en Cerneaux, which has given them, amongst the Country people, the name of *Noix Joannettes*. As for that species I am to treat upon, I can't find any Author that knew of it, and therefore I shall call it *Nux Juglans, folio eleganter dissecto*, or *Acanthi-folia*.

I shall not speak of the uses of the Walnut-tree, nor of its Fruit, which it yields in great plenty. I will only say, that the Oil which is pressed out of it, in certain Provinces is used instead of Butter and Oil-Olive. In *Berry*, where they have very good Wool, and where they Trade very much in Cattle, they have yet but very little Butter; and that little which they have is worth nothing, and is very dear; so that they use Nut-Oil in dressing

dressing their meat to eat. For this Reason, there are an infinite number of Walnut-trees planted in the middle of the Plough'd-lands, in such sort, that afar off one would take these Lands for Woods of Walnut-trees.

The want of these Trees in this Country obliges the Inhabitants to cultivate them, and they take care to nourish them in a particular places, as in a sort of Nursery, in order to plant them afresh when they die, whether it be of Age (which is rare) or whether they decay, or that they are fell'd, for the Wood to work with.

The last *Autumn*, I being gone to see one of my Kinsmen, who was at his Countrey house, two Leagues from *Selles in Berry*, in the Parish of *Lis*, as I walked in an Orchard looking upon some Plants, near a place where they bred up a vast number of young Walnut-trees, I perceiv'd in the middle, a sort of Leaf (or foliage) which I had never taken notice of before. I went thither forthwith (with much eagerness) and having examin'd it, as I knew not the substance of this Leaf, I tasted it. The taste, smell, wood and figure of the Tree, perswaded me to believe that it was a Walnut-tree, and I concluded that this was one, tho I did not remember that I had ever read, or heard of any sort like this.

This Tree is very young, and did never yet bear any Fruit, perhaps, because it may be (*in a manner*) choak'd up, and that there is neither air nor nourishment enough, by reason of the great number of other Walnut-trees, which grow round about it. It is near six foot high, and two inches Diameter at the bottom. 'Tis adorned at the top with many branches, and (as the Country people said) was about eight or nine years old, and that they had always found its Leaves like those which I saw.

I cut off a little Branch of it, but having no Paper or Book with me, I cou'd not preserve the Leaves so well as I wish'd.

The (*common*) Walnut-tree bears its Leaves by pairs, upon a stalk which terminates with a like Leaf, that is ordinarily bigger than the rest : And it has very seldom above three pairs upon each stalk.

This has sometimes four or five pairs, and sometimes more, which are one while opposite, another while alternate, altho its Leaves appear smaller than those of the common Walnut-tree, because of the Cuttings or *Slashes*. They are nevertheless as big, if one minds their circumference taken from the extremities of these *Slashes*.

The first Pair, and sometimes the second are less cut than the rest, being so only upon the circumference : but the others are cut so deep, that it looks as if the Nerve in the middle of the Leaf was only a stalk. And the *Cuts* of the Leaves are sometimes by pairs, sometimes single on one side. These Leaves are sometimes forked at the end, and sometimes end with a point. There are also some places, where it looks as if the Leaf was torn on purpose, almost like the *Angelica Canadensis*, *foliis quasi præmorsis*. There are others, where it seems that they are double, as if the Stalk or the Nerve was Winged, just as the Winged Stems or Trunks or *Caules alati*.

All these Cuts and Slashes are not like Indentures or Notches, but finish with a Round. And notwithstanding all these Irregularities, they look so pretty, that I can't compare them better (*to any thing*) than those Wrought Leaves, which serve for ornaments to the Painters, almost like those which adorn the Capital of (*Columns of*) the *Corinthian* Order, or that which in Heraldry they call *the Mantles*, or that which the Botanists term *Acante* or *Branch Ursine*, which is the first Original of this sort of Ornament.

I will add here, by the by, that *Dalechamp* has observ'd an aerial Honey of a yellowish Colour, upon the Leaves of a Walnut-tree, during the greatest Heats of the Summer. Which can be nothing but an effect of the
Tran-

Transpiration of this Tree, as of all other (*Trees*) where-
in the same thing is to be found, as I have had the Ho-
nour to prove, in speaking of the Sycamore the last year.

I have desired that they would let me have some of
the first Fruits of this Tree, in order to be entirely con-
vinced that its Nature is altogether that of the Walnut-
tree.

I shall endeavour, one day, to publish a System for ex-
plaining these Slashes, as well as those of all other Plants
in general.

V. *An Abstract of a Letter, wrote some time since,
by Signior John Ciampini of Rome, to Father
Bernard Joseph a Jesu Maria, &c. concerning
the Asbestus, and manner of spinning and making
an incombustible Cloath thereof.*

AFTER some account of the Name of the *Asbestus* Stone,
he mentions four sorts, of which he has Specimens
in his *Museum*. The first sent him from *Corfica* or *Corfu*,
long, of a woody form, of half a palm length and more,
of a whitish colour, something inclining to a reddish.
The second of a Silveryish Lead colour, softer and shorter,
about three inches, this was from *Sestri di Ponente* in
Liguria. The third (which is the worst of all) is like
Scales or *Lamina* one upon another (as he represents it
like an Onion) of a blackish earth colour, with some
white, black and dark red veins interspersed, scarce two
parts of an inch *Roman* long, therefore fitter for making
of Paper, than spinning or weaving. The fourth sort,
given him by Signior *Boccone*, found in the *Pyreneans*,
some whereof were a *Roman* Palm long; its filaments, tho
long